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REPORT OF SOVIET PLAN TO USE SZCZECIN AS FLEET BASE

[Comment: The following report was taken from an article in the 4 March 1953 issue of Information, Copenhagen independent daily newspaper. The article contained substantially the same information (namely, the reported transfer of the port of Stettin (Szczecin) from Polish to joint USSR-Polish-East German administration) as that presented [redacted] with the addition of the following. It is likely that the article in Information was taken entirely from the German weekly periodical Der Spiegel.

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The German weekly, Der Spiegel, sees this action [the Soviet plan to transform Stettin into a Red Fleet base] as having some connection with the Soviet notes to Denmark expressing concern that the island of Bornholm "was being developed as a springboard for aggressive action against the Soviet Union." For the same purpose of aggression attributed to Denmark the Soviets now want to make the former German port city into a strategic counterbalance against Bornholm, which lies only 20 [probably should read 200] air kilometers from Stettin. The German military affairs writer in Der Spiegel sees that the immediate occasion for the Soviets' action is their concern over Bornholm. However, their plans to make Stettin into a fleet base are much older, since as early as 1945 the USSR allowed for the possibility of a revision of the treaty with Poland. When, on 3 July 1945, Marshal Zhukov handed over the capital of Pomerania to Borkowicz, the Polish representative, he said that he only 'delegated' the administration of Stettin to the Polish Republic. In reality the Soviets remained the masters of the city. They showed this plainly when last year, to the great discomfiture of the Poles, they moved a large number of units of the German People's Police to Stettin.

On 24 January 1953 the USSR decided to send 1,100,000 more German farmers back to those areas in Pomerania and Silesia which they were originally forced to leave when Poland took possession of those regions in 1945.

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